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Testimony of

Christopher Carlozzi, NFIB State Director  
In Opposition to House Bill No. 7877

Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Appliance and Equipment Energy and Water Efficiency  
Standards Act of 2021

Before the House Committee on Corporations

April 7, 2026

Chairman Solomon and Members of the House Committee on Corporations:

My name is Christopher Carlozzi. I am the Rhode Island State Director for NFIB. A non-profit, non-partisan organization, NFIB is the nation's and our state's largest small business advocacy group. In Rhode Island, NFIB represents hundreds of small and independent business owners involved in all types of industry, including manufacturing, retail, wholesale, service, and agriculture. The average NFIB member has five employees and annual gross revenues of about \$450,000. NFIB represents the small Main Street business owners from throughout Rhode Island. On behalf of those small and independent business employers, I urge you to oppose House Bill No. 7877 regarding appliance and product bans.

NFIB opposes the language in this bill prohibiting the sale of legal products like faucets, computers, blowers, commercial ovens, and dishwashers that do not meet new efficiency standards outlined in the legislation. Not only will this limit the types of products Rhode Island retailers are allowed to sell, it also forces consumers to either purchase an appliance that may not meet their needs or take their business to another state that do not impose such bans. House Bill No. 7877 places restrictions on items used by many of the state's small businesses, including commercial ovens, dishwashers, and computer servers. This could result in Main Street businesses having no option but paying for higher priced alternatives or making their equipment purchases out of state.

On behalf of the state's small businesses, we urge you to reject House Bill No. 7877, thank you.